कम करने के लिए साथ ही साथ जो आम उपभोक्ता है, उसको समय पर बिजली मिले और अच्छी बिजली मिले, इसके लिए राज्यों को सुधार कार्यक्रम अपनाने के लिए कहा है। सारे राज्य धीरे-धीरे इन सुधारों को अपना रहे हैं। उसमें स्टेट इलेक्ट्रिसिटी रेग्युलेटरी कमीशन का गठन करना है। उसके तहत जो मीटरिंग करनी है, शत-प्रतिशत मीटरिंग करनी है, चोरी को रोकना है और चोरी को रोकने के लिए सख्त कानून बनाने हैं, इस प्रकार के कई उपाय हैं जो सुधार कार्यक्रमों के तहत हम कर रहे हैं। राज्यों की ओर से धीरे-धीरे उन कार्यक्रमों को भी अच्छी सहायता हो रही है।

Mr. Chairman: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Demining in forward areas

*301. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the forward areas our forces are engaged in clearing mines without the aid of demining sets and mine boots;

(b) if so, the number of Jawans killed and injured so far during the demining process; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to stop manual demining to save human lives as well as complete the demining process quickly?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Demining equipment, anti-mine boots and other protective gear are available with our troops, who are engaged in demining operations in the forward areas, where land mines were laid during OPERATION PARAKARAM. Nevertheless, during the current demining operations, from October, 2002 upto 6th March, 2003, five Army personnel were killed and fifty-nine were injured.

Manual demining is an inescapable part of the demining process along with other methods, and thus cannot altogether be dispensed with. However, to ensure safety in demining operations, only trained army personnel who laid the mines and were familiar with the terrain, have been employed in recovery of the mines.

In addition, the Government has taken necessary steps to augment the existing resources with highly advanced equipment available internationally, so as to facilitate safe and expeditious completion of the on-going demining process.

Special C.L. for Central Government employees

*304. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government employees are eligible for special C.L. when they participate in National level Sports meet as technical officials;

(b) if so, what is the procedure in obtaining the said leave;

(c) can Government refuse after participation in the sports even; and

(d) if so, what is the justification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (d) Technical officials concerned with the administration of the tournaments are being given the facility of availing of special casual leave.

Leave cannot be claimed as of right. When exigencies of public service so require, leave of any kind may be refused or revoked by the authority competent to grant it.

Bill to limit mining in Aravali hills

†*311. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to put any limit on mining in Aravali region;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to bring any Bill to ensure the limit of mining; and

(c) if so, by when the said Bill is proposed to be brought?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.